

**USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program**  
**Wupatki National Monument**

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*Brickellia californica* – *Rhus trilobata* Shrubland

MAP CLASS	Basalt Outcrop Shrubland
COMMON NAME	California Brickelbush – Skunkbush Sumac Shrubland
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Shrubland (III)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Deciduous shrubland (III.B)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (III.B.2.N.a)
FORMATION	Temperate cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.N.a)
ALLIANCE	<i>Brickellia californica</i> Shrubland Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL Weak

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

**Wupatki National Monument**

California Brickelbush – Skunkbush Sumac Shrubland is an uncommon association that occurs mainly on small rock outcrops. This association was only located from our relevé data within Wupatki NM on two locations, specifically adjacent to Kana a Wash and in outcrops on and below Woodhouse Mesa.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

**Wupatki National Monument**

Based on our three relevés, this association's elevation ranged from 4,593-5,184 ft (1,400-1,580 m) (average 4,957 ft/1,511 m), and occurs on flat or steep slopes from 0-34% (average 19%). This association occurs on rock outcrops and is associated with sandstone and remnant basaltic lava flows.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

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<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Shrub	<i>Brickellia californica</i> , <i>Rhus trilobata</i>

ASSOCIATED SPECIES

**Wupatki National Monument**

*Andropogon hallii*, *Ephedra torreyana*, *Ericameria nauseosa*, *Eriogonum corymbosum*, *Fallugia paradoxa*, *Gutierrezia sarothrae*, *Hesperostipa comata*, *Pleuraphis jamesii*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

**Wupatki National Monument**

California Brickelbush – Skunkbush Sumac Shrubland total vegetation cover ranges from 25-27% (average 26%) with 18-24% (average 21%) absolute cover in the shrub layer and 1-7% (average 4%) absolute cover in the herbaceous layer. The total species diversity ranged from 11-16 species (average 13) within the 3 relevés sampled.

The shrub layer was dominated or co-dominated by *Brickellia californica* with 2-9% absolute cover (average 5%) and *Rhus trilobata* with 4-9% absolute cover (average 6%). *Ericameria nauseosa* may be present with high cover within this association with 1-7% absolute cover (average 4%). The herbaceous layer was low to sparse and not dominated by a single species.

CONSERVATION RANK G?

DATABASE CODE CEGL003493

MAP CLASSES

The association California Brickelbush – Skunkbush Sumac Shrubland is represented by map class Basalt Outcrop Shrubland (map code 2).

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Basalt Outcrop Shrubland represents associations that are specific to basalt outcrops within Wupatki NM. Although this is the only association defined as occurring in this map class, other species and associations are likely to occur throughout this map class in the park and environs.

The total area mapped within Wupatki NM is 59 ac (24 ha) within 78 polygons and the total area in the park environs is 237 ac (96 ha) within 249 polygons.